

# July E-Newsletter

The Mayor's Office of New Bostonians (MONB) is excited to announce that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual We Are Boston Gala, celebrating diversity, immigrant contributions, and heritage, will be held on October 6, 2009 at 5:45pm at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. This year's event will honor world renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma! For full event details and highlights, please [visit our blog](#).



## Call For Nominations: Leadership Awards

Boston's diversity is the strength of our city. Corporations and individuals have made invaluable contributions in promoting and embracing Boston's rich diversity and facilitating New Bostonians' full participation in the life of the City. Mayor Thomas M. Menino and MONB seek to honor these outstanding leaders in the three We Are Boston Leadership award categories: **Corporate Leadership, Community Leadership and Youth Leadership**. For an application form and guidelines on submitting a nomination please [click here](#). The Deadline for Nominations is July 30, 2009.

## Previous awardees have included:

Leadership Award: **Bill Russell** (2008), **David Ortiz** (2007) and **Senator Ted Kennedy** (2006).

2008 Corporate Leadership Awards: **Verizon**, for its efforts to run a workplace that leverages the diversity of its employees, customers, suppliers and community partners.

2008 Community Leadership: **Rev. Gloria White Hammond**, MD, for her efforts to help inner-city girls attain higher goals and her work to liberate Sudanese slaves.

2008 Youth Leadership Awards: **DanThuy Chu**, an advocate for teens to become informed and involved in their communities. **Diego Medina**, a honduran immigrant who engaged in destructive behaviors altered his behavior and joined a new chapter of the Latin Kings who wanted to change their lives and the world through commitment to community service and **Berjeany Charles**, who designed and ran an after-school program to support Haitian American students in high school literacy classes.



2008 We Are Boston Gala. Mayor Menino and Youth Awardees

## Q&A with Cheng Imm Tan, the Director of the Mayor's Office for New Bostonians (MONB)



**Q: Can you tell us how MONB came to be?**

A: The Office was started by Mayor Thomas Menino 10 years ago because he saw that the New Bostonian community was growing rapidly. He wanted to make sure they received the resources they needed to participate in all aspects of life in the city.

**Q: We know that the MONB has won awards for its programs. What are your most successful programs?**

A: Boston is the first city in the nation that has an office for new immigrants and programs are developed in response to identified needs in the diverse communities. English for New Bostonians, a unique city-private-community partnership addresses the need for more ESOL classes. New Bostonians' Vote/Now Is The Time Campaign brings the diverse communities together to work on voter registration and participation. New Bostonians Community Day, an open house to City Hall, allows community members to familiarize themselves with city and community resources. The New Bostonians Summit brings 7 sectors together to address 3 key issues in the community and the We Are Boston Gala highlights the importance of diversity and immigrant contributions. These are all unique programs which ensure that the voices of New Bostonians are heard and help diverse communities feel more connected, affirmed and increase access to the resources they need.

**Q: It's wonderful that we are able to celebrate diversity in Boston through the We Are**

**Boston Gala. Can you give us some highlights that we can look forward to for this year's events?**

A: Boston speaks 140 different languages, with representation from 100 nations. As the Mayor often says, diversity is our strength. The We Are Boston Gala is a unique and inspiring event that brings everyone together-new and old Bostonians alike- to connect, enjoy, learn more and about each other across the diverse cultures, affirm our common immigrant heritage regardless of how and when each of us/our families came and embrace the dreams of a better life that we all share. Every year, the participation of 800-1200 people from the diverse communities are a big highlight as they are themselves a wealth of inspiration. This year, we are featuring the first ever Heritage Tables to further highlight the beauty of the diversity that we have in our City and beyond. In addition, the unique and high quality performances will delight event participants. Also, this year's corporate, individual and youth We Are Boston leadership awardees are inspiring and motivating.

**Q: It's very exciting to have Boston's own world renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma recognized for his leadership and contributions to this city. How does MONB select the Leadership Award recipients each year?**

A: The Award recipients are selected based on what they have done for the City and its environs to promote and embrace diversity and immigrant empowerment. Embracing diversity and immigrant empowerment is not only a good thing to do, it's a necessity if we want to build prosperity, strength and vitality. We need to know how to tap into the strength and resources that the diverse communities bring.

**About the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians**

The Office of New Bostonians was established in 1998 to meet the needs of the growing and changing immigrant and newcomer communities in Boston. The ONB's mission and objectives were formed through a democratic process that included dialogues across immigrant groups in Boston. Its mission statement reads:

*"Our purpose is to strengthen the ability of immigrants and the diverse cultural and linguistic communities of which they are a part to fully participate in the economic, civic, social and cultural life of the City of Boston, and to promote the commemoration and public understanding of the contributions of immigrants."*

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**For more information on We Are Boston Gala, visit the [We Are Boston Blog](#).  
To learn more about the Mayor's Office for New Bostonians, visit the [MONB website](#).**